(c) According to the State Government, the overdrafts were not due to wasteful expenditure.

(d) Does not arise.

Setting: up of High Courts in North Eastern region

2065. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND' JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government made a commitment to the setting up of separate High Court in each State of the North Eastern region of India:

(b) if so, what are the names of the States in which separate High Courts have so far been set up; and

(c) what were the difficulties in setting up separate High Court in Tripura?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) to (c) It was agreed, in principle, that there should be separate High Courts for each of the States in the north-eastern region, and that in the first instance permanent Benches of the Gauhati High Court be established in the capitals these States after the requisite infrastructural facilities were provided by the State Governments.

Accordingly, a permanent Bench of the Gauhati High Court has been established in Nagaland at Kohima recently. The other States including Tripura, have still to complete the facilities necessary for setting up permanent Benches of the High Court.

Organisation of Loan Mela by United Bank of India, Tripura

2066. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: With the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the lead bank of Tripura, the United Bank of India, kept the loan mela in force upto the holding of State Assembly elections in uttar violation of the instructions and directives issued by the Supreme Court prior to the elections;

(b) whether it is also a fact that though many complaints were made to the authorities of the United Bank of India in regard to the sanctioning of loans to the beneficiaries selected in violation of rules and regulations prescribed for this, those complaints were turned down; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken against the Chairman of the United Bank of India?

V THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a)' and (b) The United Bank of India, the lead bank for State of Tripura has reported that they have not organised any credit camps for the disbursal of loans before the State Assembly Elections. The bank has, also, reported that they did not sanction loans to beneficiaries in violation of any Rules and Regulations on the subject.

(c) Does not arise.

Programme of Holding Loan Melas in Tripura

2067. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that commercial banks and gramin banks have totally abandoned the programme of holding loan melas in Tripura;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being proposed by the Central Government to provide loans to the poor people belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MANDHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b) There is no programme or scheme formulated either by the

Central Government or by the Reserve Bank of India for disbursement of credit by banks through loan melas in Tripura or in any other part of the country. For the scheme of Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) the application forms of bene ficiaries are to be prepared in a camp attended by the beneficiaries, the block functionaries, the other concerned departments including the revenue department and the bankers. The camp system is advisable to save time and energy of the beneficiaries in the completion of the applications and procurement of requisite documents. The public sector banks have also been organising the credit camps in order to provide credit assistance to worker sections.

(c) The present credit policy already provides a thrust for increased flow of credit to the priority sector and, in particular, to the weaker sec. tions of the society including SC/ST beneficiaries. Banks are required to provide at least 10 percent to their total credit to weaker sections.

Delhi Judicial Service

2068. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, it is a fact that about 85 new posts in the Delhi Judicial Service have been sanctioned to clear the back-log of cases in the subordinate courts of the capital; and

(b) if so, how many cases have been cleared after the creation of these posts?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) No,

Sir.

(b) does not arise.

MMTC Assistance to State Mining and Mineral Corporations

2069. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MMTC is assisting some state Mining and Minerals Corporations in the held of production and sale of minerals; and

(b)' if so, how many States are getting the assistance from the MMTC?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Financial assistance by way of loans has been extended by MMTC to Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation, Hyderabad.

Prices of Imported Rubber

2070. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of imported rubber have been exorbitantly increased by the S. T. C. effecting the shoe industry, especially the small manufacturers; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b) Presumably, the reference is to the prices of rubber released by STC during 1. 989. These release prices were fixed having regard to the cost of importing rubber and the prevailing level of Customs Duty.

The Government is taking all possible steps to safeguard the interest of the growers and the rubber consuming industry including the rubber shoe-industry.